United Nations S/2018/434

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 May 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 3 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government; in accordance with the articles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the maintenance of international peace and security, and in particular Article 35 of the Charter, which provides that any Member of the United Nations may bring to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly any dispute or any situation the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security; and further to my previous letter dated 4 April 2018 concerning hostile practices by the State of Qatar that threaten the safety of civilian aircraft traffic (S/2018/310), I should like to inform the Security Council of the two following incidents as further evidence that the State of Qatar is flagrantly violating international laws protecting the safety of civil aviation.

1. On 26 March 2018, at 0636 hours UTC, two Qatari warplanes (transponder codes 2340 and 2341) approached a civilian United Arab Emirates helicopter (registration A6-AMF) that was flying in the internationally declared and published airway UY 856 inside the Bahrain flight information region. The same thing happened again at 1135 hours UTC that same day. Two Qatari warplanes approached a United Arab Emirates A320 (registration A6-HMS) flying along airway UL 768, which is approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization, also inside the Kingdom of Bahrain flight information region. That dangerous incident threatening the safety of international civil aviation and the security and safety of passengers was perpetrated by two Qatari combat aircraft flying without prior authorization from the area control centre responsible for providing aviation services in that airspace (see annex I containing a report and map issued by Civil Aviation Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain).

2. At approximately 1050 on the morning of Sunday, 22 April 2018, Qatari combat aircraft approached a United Arab Emirates civilian Airbus 320 aircraft (registration ETD 88N). That aircraft was leaving the airport at Dammam, Saudi Arabia, and heading for Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on a scheduled flight along a known route. It was in compliance with all conditions. It was using an airway declared and approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization. It was flying over international waters in international airway UN 318, inside the Kingdom of Bahrain flight information region administered by the Bahraini aviation authorities in accordance with international agreements for the administration of that area. The Qatari combat aircraft approached in a manner that endangered the safety of the civilian United Arab Emirates aircraft, which was flying at an altitude of 25,000 feet.

The situation prompted intervention by Bahrain air traffic control (Bahrain flight information area), which took the necessary measures to preserve the safety of the aircraft. The captain of the United Arab Emirates aircraft (registration ETD 88N) engaged in a manoeuvre that brought the aircraft down to 24,000 feet in order to avoid the Qatari warplanes (see annex 2 containing a report and maps issued by Civil Aviation Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain).

It should be clear from the preceding that these repeated Qatari violations pose a threat to international civil aviation and represent a dangerous and unwarranted escalation by the State of Qatar intended to undermine security and stability, stir up tension in the region, and threaten regional and international peace and security, in contravention of the principles of good-neighbourliness provided for in international instruments, and of human rights principles. The situation requires immediate and resolute measures to be taken at the regional and international levels to put a stop to such violations and hold the State of Qatar responsible for any adverse consequences that might result. The Kingdom of Bahrain affirms its complete solidarity with the United Arab Emirates, and stands behind all measures the latter is taking to address these repeated Qatari violations to ensure the safety of civil aviation and protect the lives of innocent civilians.

The Kingdom of Bahrain strongly condemns this repeated provocative behaviour for which the State of Qatar bears responsibility, and which amounts to terrorization of passengers by putting their lives at risk, in flagrant contravention of relevant international laws and agreements. The Kingdom of Bahrain stresses that it has the right to ask the International Civil Aviation Authority and other organizations involved in the security of civil aviation to take any necessary measures against these irresponsible practices being engaged in by the State of Qatar.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jamal Fares **Alrowaiei**
Permanent Representative

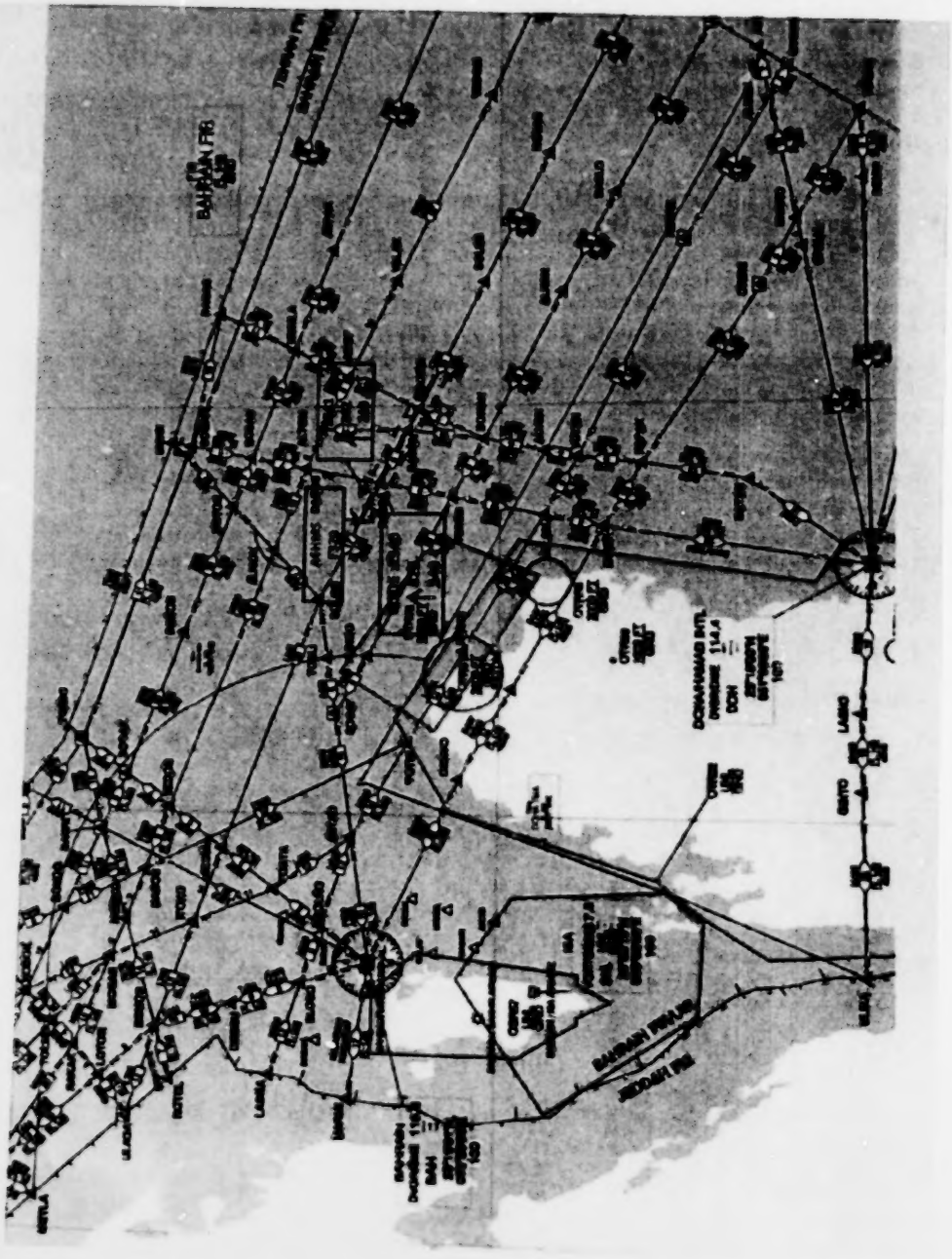
Annex I to the letter dated 3 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Kingdom of Bahrain
Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications

Report

On 26 March 2018, at 1135 hours UTC, two Qatari combat aircraft (transponder codes 2340 and 2341) approached an Emirati A320 aircraft with registration A6-HMS flying along airway UL 768 over international waters inside the Bahrain flight information region. The two Qatari combat aircraft changed altitude in a dangerous manner in close proximity to the Emirati aircraft without obtaining permission from the area control centre responsible for providing air traffic control services in the Kingdom of Bahrain. That posed a direct threat to international aviation routes used in that region of the world, and consequently a threat to the lives of passengers, as well as to the aircraft and property.

We expect an investigation of these dangerous occurrences perpetrated by the Qatari side without regard for international laws and regulations protecting the safety of aviation. The Qatari side must be called on to cease such irresponsible practices. This is not the first time. Similar incidents were perpetrated by Qatari combat aircraft against civilian aircraft belonging to Emirates airlines and Ettihad Airways on 15 January 2018.


BAHRAIN FIR
DOHA/HAMAD INTL
BAHRAIN PALM
JEDDAH FIR

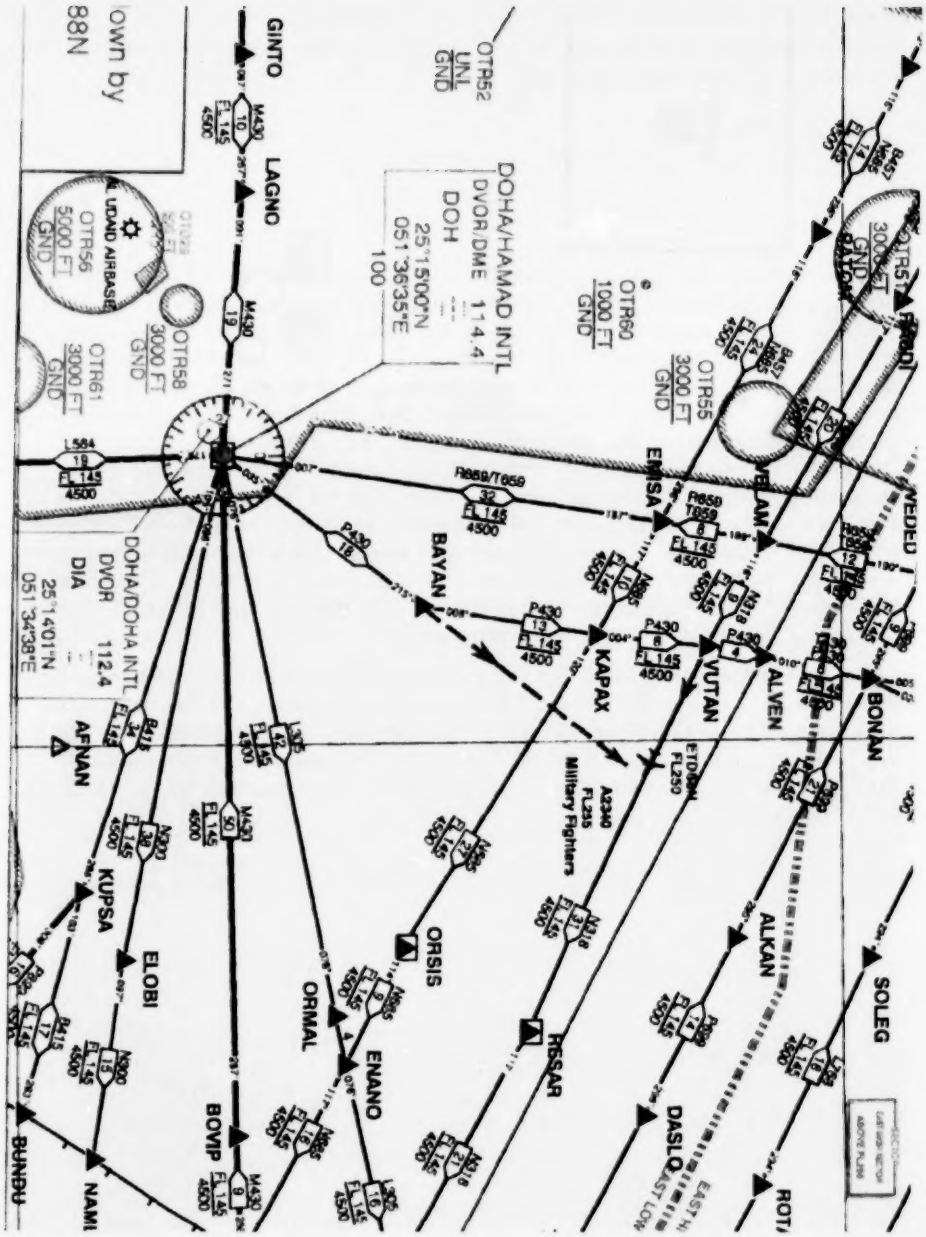
Annex II to the letter dated 3 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Kingdom of Bahrain
Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications

Report

On the morning of Sunday, 22 April 2018, at approximately 1050 hours local time, Qatari combat aircraft approached to within less than two miles of a civilian United Arab Emirates Airbus 320 aircraft (registration ETD 88N). That aircraft was leaving the airport at Dammam and heading for Abu Dhabi on a flight that was in compliance with all conditions. It was flying over international waters along international airway UN 318 inside the Bahrain flight information region. The Qatari combat aircraft approached in a manner that posed a threat to the safety of the civilian United Arab Emirates aircraft, even though Bahrain air traffic control had alerted Qatar air traffic control and twice requested them to get the Qatari combat aircraft to keep their distance and change their flight paths to avoid the United Arab Emirates aircraft, to no avail. The situation prompted intervention by Bahrain air traffic control, which took the measures necessary to protect the safety of civil aviation. The captain of the United Arab Emirates aircraft (registration ETD 88N) engaged in a manoeuvre to reduce altitude to avoid the Qatari combat aircraft.

This incident constitutes a flagrant violation of international regulations and a threat to the safety of global aviation. It posed severe threats to aviation traffic and threatened the lives of passengers. The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications has contacted the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization to put a stop to such illegal practices by the Qatari authorities.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